GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1996
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003
SOLUTION FOR FAKE BT COTTON SEEDS
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR)`s scientists in Nagpur have devised a kit to detect spurious BT. Cotton seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether presently such kits are imported; and

(d) if so, the likely savings in foreign exchange in case the indigenous kit is recognized?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Scientists of Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) have developed four kits to help the detection of spurious Bt seeds. Three kits (Bt-express, Bt-Quant and Bt-detect) are based on immunoassays and the fourth kit is through PCR-DNA.

(c) Yes, Sir. The kits are also being imported.

(d) The cost of imported kit is about Rs. 5000/- per pack of 50 strips. CICR is providing Bt-Express strip to farmers at Rs. 5/- per strip and to the seed industry at Rs. 25/- per strip. The price of CICR Bt-Quant is Rs. 1000/- per kit as against Rs. 15000/- of the imported ELISA kit. The kits need commercialization before estimating the likely savings in foreign exchange.